

CHAPTER
25

Section 3

GUIDED READING

American Society in a Conservative Age

A. As you read, identify specific issues in each of the following areas that concerned Americans in the 1980s.

1. Health	2. Education	3. Cities
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B. Take notes about the gains, losses, and chief concerns of each of the following groups.

1. Women	2. African Americans	3. Latinos
4. Native Americans	5. Asian Americans	6. Gays and lesbians

C. On the back of this paper, note what **L. Douglas Wilder** and **Jesse Jackson** did to advance African Americans politically.

CHAPTER
25**Section 3****RETEACHING ACTIVITY** *Social Concerns in the 1980s***Reading Comprehension**

Choose the best answer for each item. Write the letter of your answer in the blank.

- _____ 1. In an attempt to improve education in America, a federal commission in 1983 recommended all of the following except
- more homework.
 - longer school days.
 - shorter lunch periods.
 - an extended school year.
- _____ 2. The city that exploded in racial violence in 1992 after the acquittal of white police officers accused of beating an African-American man was
- Chicago.
 - Los Angeles.
 - New York City.
 - Miami.
- _____ 3. The nation's fastest growing minority during the 1980s were
- Latinos.
 - Asians.
 - Africans.
 - Native Americans.
- _____ 4. Perhaps the nation's most prominent health epidemic during the 1980s was
- AIDS.
 - hepatitis.
 - tuberculosis.
 - chronic fatigue syndrome.
- _____ 5. The African American leader who ran for Democratic presidential nomination in 1984 and 1988 was
- L. Douglas Wilder.
 - Jesse Jackson.
 - Andrew Young.
 - Colin Powell.
- _____ 6. The operating of gambling casinos was a significant way of bringing in money for
- Latinos.
 - Asian Americans.
 - African Americans.
 - Native Americans.

CHAPTER
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GEOGRAPHY APPLICATION: REGION

Latino Population in the 1980s

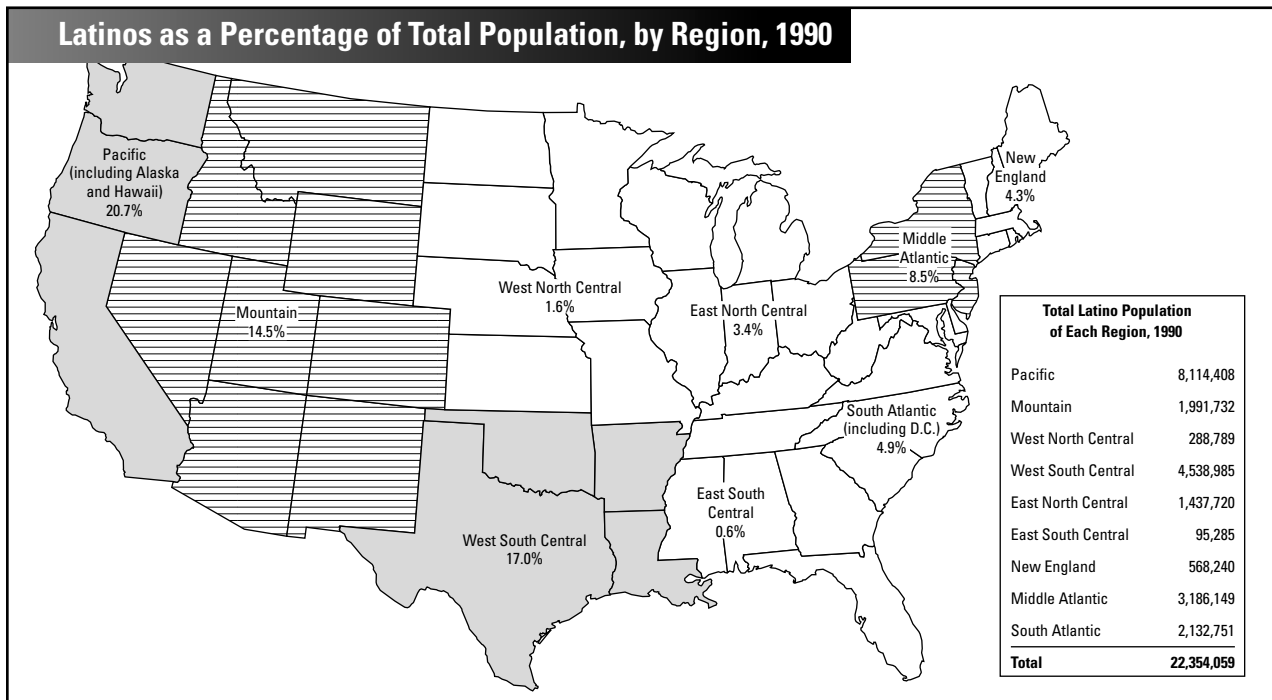
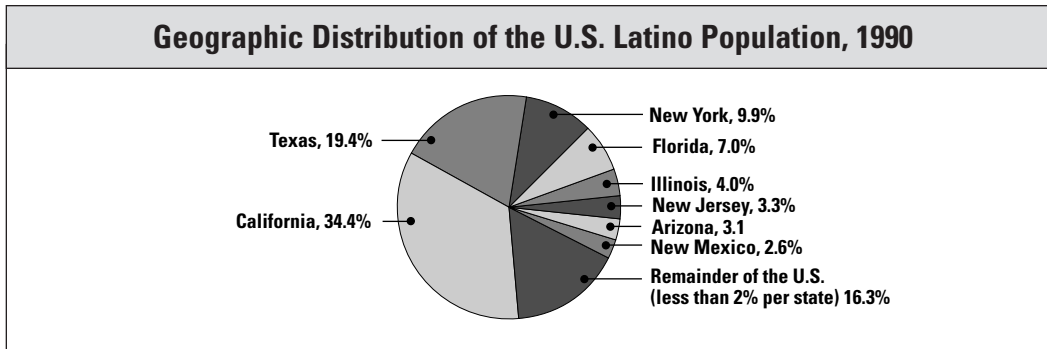
Section 3

Directions: Read the paragraphs below and study the graph and the map carefully. Then answer the questions that follow.

Between 1980 and 1990, the Latino population in the United States increased by about 53 percent—from 14.6 million to nearly 22.4 million—as compared to only a 6.7 percent increase by non-Latinos. By 1990, in fact, California’s Latino population of nearly 7.7 million ranked higher than the total populations of all but nine states. At current rates of growth, the Latino population in the

United States will double by the year 2020, whereas it will take the non-Latino population more than 150 years to double.

Some states have concentrations of Latinos of particular national backgrounds—Mexican in California and Texas, Puerto Rican in New York and New Jersey, and Cuban in Florida, for example.



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Interpreting Text and Visuals

1. What does “Texas, 19.4%” mean on the pie graph? _____

2. Into how many regions is the U.S. map divided? _____

What does “Middle Atlantic 8.5%” mean on the map? _____

3. In the table to the right of the map, what does the number 1,437,720 mean for East North Central? _____

4. How many states contained less than 2 percent of the U.S. Latino population in 1990? _____

Which state contained nearly 10 percent of the Latino population? _____

5. In which region was the percentage of Latinos the smallest? _____

6. Which two states together accounted for more than half of the nation’s Latino population? _____

7. How did the Mountain region rank among all regions in terms of its percentage of Latinos? How did it rank in terms of its total Latino population? Explain why the two rankings are not the same.

8. Use your knowledge of geography and economics to suggest reasons for the large Latino populations in the Southwest, in Florida, and in certain states of the middle Atlantic region and east north central regions.

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PRIMARY SOURCE **Civil Rights in the 1980s**

When he was interviewed by Studs Terkel, Clarence Page was a 39-year-old columnist and member of the editorial board of the Chicago Tribune.

I would describe myself as a black baby boomer. I came of age in the sixties, several years after the '54 school desegregation decision. . . .

My folks were not political people. Because they were older, they tended to vote Republican. Lincoln's party that freed the slaves, you know (laughs). My father was the oldest of five brothers and the most conservative. His younger brother jumped to the Democratic Party with FDR.

Seeing the Little Rock incident on television affected me greatly. I'll never forget seeing a couple of National Guard troopers marching with bayonets on their rifles behind a couple of girls. I had not yet heard of Martin Luther King.

My mother and father were very quiet about it. I didn't find out until years later that they were very hopeful. At the same time, their feeling was, Don't make waves, don't rock the boat. Just prepare yourself, because someday the doors of opportunity would open. Be ready to step inside. They never stressed that we should try to bring that opportunity about more quickly. That came from me (laughs). . . .

The late sixties was a great time to be a black journalist. That was how I came to Chicago 18 years ago.

Something's happened in those years, hasn't it? It's become less of a civil rights struggle and more of a class struggle. It's hard for me to talk about social injustice—I'm better off than most white people are in this country. But what about the great many other blacks?

I wonder if we can any longer use civil rights tactics against economic problems. We can march for justice in Forsyth County, Georgia. We can march against apartheid in South Africa. But what do we do against the grinding problems in the black community—illiteracy, teen pregnancy, homelessness, malnutrition? We've got the poorest children of any industrialized country in the world. Civil rights marching is not going to solve it. It has to be a social justice movement in some big way.

What good does it do if you have the right to do a job, but not the education to get it? What good does it do if you have the right to go to a hotel, but

you can't afford it? You have the right to sit at a lunch counter or go to a restaurant, but . . . In some ways, we're worse off as a people today than we were twenty years ago.

There is a rage inside, an anger that certain people have tried to turn these advances around and say whatever advances black people have made have been at the expense of somebody else.

In the new racism, everybody's a victim (laughs). There are no bigots any more. A Southern leader quit the Klan and formed a new group called the National Association for the Advancement of White People. It's predicated on the notion that the whites are an oppressed class now. They borrow the rhetoric of the civil rights movement, but not its essence. Is the ex-Klansman much different from the Reagan administration that puts forth black spokesmen to oppose affirmative action because this oppresses white males?

What concerns me is that I am so alone now. There are so few blacks who have shared in this opportunity. A few of us are allowed in the door and then it's shut. . . .

It's too large for just the black middle class to solve alone. It has to be a society-wide effort. It's not just the black community. It's the Hispanic and certain parts of the white community, as well.

I think these people are worse off than twenty years ago because they are more isolated. There's less a sense of hope. I was not born rich, but as long as my family had hope, that's all that mattered. But if you don't have any hope and all you look forward to is producing more and more generations of welfare kids, you're definitely worse off. That is the big gap, the Great Divide.

*from "Clarence Page," in *The Great Divide: Second Thoughts on the American Dream* by Studs Terkel (New York: Pantheon, 1988), 265–270.*

Activity Options

1. Make a Venn diagram to compare Page's and Reagan's assessments of the 1980s.
2. With a partner, role-play an informal debate between Page and a member of the New Right.